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STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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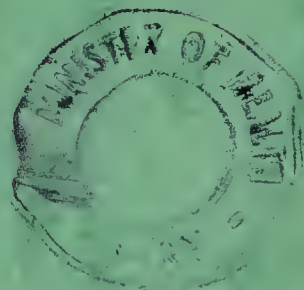
# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector



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1960

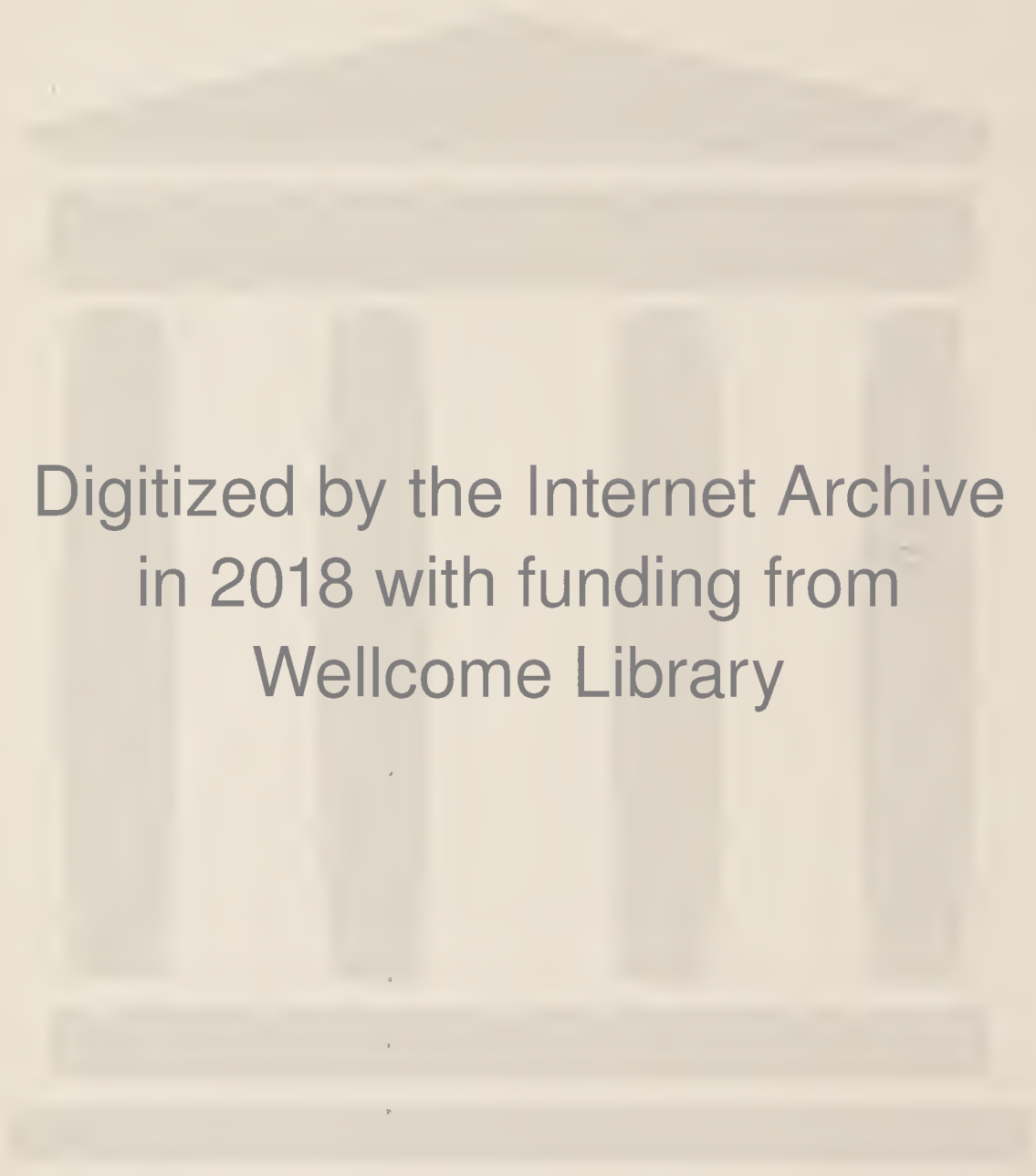
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# STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## *Public Health Committee*

Chairman: Councillor P. W. King.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor C. M. Marks.

### Councillors:

M. I. L. Ashdown, L. L. Evans, F. L. George, R. V. C. Grace,  
R. W. Hudson, H. M. Justice, L. Perrin, W. E. Robinson, F. W. Smith,  
E. Westbrook.

### *Staff of the Public Health Department*

#### *Medical Officer of Health (part-time):*

L. A. MATHESON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., M.M.S.A.

Council Offices, Bridge Street, Staines. Tel.: Staines 55955.

#### *Chief Public Health Inspector:*

JOHN MULLIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.HSG.

#### *Qualifications*

1.2.4.5.

#### *Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:*

P. F. PACKHAM, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

1.2.3.

#### *Public Health Inspectors:*

G. A. EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

1.2.5.6.

R. I. SHEPHERD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

1.2.5.6.

#### *Assistants for Rodent Control and Clean Air Act:*

H. A. CROUCHER.

A. H. FULLER.

#### *Senior Clerk:*

Miss L. M. PERRYMAN.

#### *Assistant Clerk and Shorthand Typist:*

Miss P. E. REEVE.

#### *Key to qualifications—*

1. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
2. Certificate of the Royal Society of Health as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
3. Certificate of the Royal Society of Health as Smoke Inspector.
4. Certificate of the Royal Society of Health in Sanitary Science.
5. Diploma of the Institute of Housing in Estate Management.
6. Diploma of Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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## THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS of STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1960.

In the analysis of deaths from all causes, see page 5 it is suitable to draw attention to the fact that there were no deaths from the following seven causes: Tuberculosis (respiratory and other, frequently bone), Syphilis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Meningococcal infections, Acute Poliomyelitis and Measles.

It is certainly safe to assert that in other than the recent past few years a district with a population of 49,000 would undoubtedly have had deaths from some of these seven causes. It can be asserted without fear of contradiction that prophylactic medicine has been the basis for this great improvement. Some diseases are directly susceptible to preventive measures, e.g. diphtheria; others, for example measles, can have very severe complications which can be dealt with by modern therapy. On the other hand it is wise to consider that in the same year five deaths were due to suicide. This is a sad reflection as to the well known high incidence of mental ill-health among the population at large.

A Local Home Safety Committee was set up in 1959 and begun to operate during 1960. Several meetings of this Committee were held during the year to consider the promotion of home safety measures and the dissemination of knowledge among the elderly and the parents of the very young since these two groups form the most susceptible to home accidents. A Home Safety Exhibition was held in the Town Hall, unfortunately this was not well attended. It is difficult to assess the results of a campaign for home safety. The prevention of accidents never causes comment whereas a severe burn, scald or fall in the home causes great suffering, sometimes extensive hospital treatment and always anxiety in the home.

Any measures to maintain health and prevent ill-health confer benefits to the community which cannot be evaluated. The absence of any tangible results of the work of the Committee and of other interested persons and organisations should not discourage anyone from giving their whole-hearted support to the work of such a committee.



When considering the improvement brought about by preventive medicine and the possibility of decreasing accidents in the home, I am reminded of a little rhyme which I think is curiously apposite.

'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed  
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant  
But over its terrible edge there had slipped  
A duke and full many a peasant.  
So the people said something would have to be done  
But their projects did not at all tally.  
Some said: "Put a fence round the edge of the cliff."  
Some: "An ambulance down in the valley."

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration shown to me by members of the Council and to thank the officers of the Council for their continued support ; particularly I appreciate the ready co-operation I always receive from Mr. J. Mullin, Chief Public Health Inspector. I also wish to say ~~how~~ grateful I am to Miss L. M. Perryman, Senior Clerk, for her assistance.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. MATHESON.

## Summary of Statistics

Area—8,271 acres.

Population (Estimated mid-1960)	...	...	...	49,400
Number of Houses, Bungalows and Flats at 1.4.60	...			14,430
Rateable Value at 1.4.60	...	...	...	£892,800
Sum represented by a penny rate at 1st April, 1960	...			£3,650

## Summary of Vital Statistics

<i>Live Births</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	471	437	908
Illegitimate	...	...	...	14	15	29
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				485	452	937
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Live Birth Rate</i> (per thousand population)	...	...	...			19.0
Comparability factor is 0.91 giving adjusted birth rate of	...	...	...	...	...	17.3
Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	17.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...					3.1
<i>Still Births</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	14	8	22
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
<i>Still Birth Rate</i> per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	...	...			24.0
Still Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	19.7
<i>Total Live and Still Births</i>	...	...	...	...	...	960
<i>Deaths</i>						
	Male	...	...	225		
	Female	...		183		
				<hr/>		
				408		
				<hr/>		
<i>Death Rate</i> (per thousand population)	...	...	...			8.3
Comparability factor is 1.31, giving adjusted death rate of	...	...	...	...	...	10.9
Death Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	11.5
Infant Deaths under one year	...	...	...	...	...	17
Infant Mortality Rate (per thousand live births)	...	...	...	...	...	18.1
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	21.7
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	17.6
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	34.5
Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	8.5
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	32.3
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	1.04

## Causes of Death

<i>Disease</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	9	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	19	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	20	20
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	18	27
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	46	29
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	22	19
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	13	17
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	16	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	17	20
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	7	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	8	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Homicide and operation of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
						<hr/> 225 <hr/>	<hr/> 183 <hr/>

# INFANT DEATHS

	Under 1 day M. F.	1-6 days		1 week M. F.	2 weeks		3 weeks		Total under 1 month M. F.	1-2 mths.		3-5 mths.		6-8 mths.		9-11 mths.		Totals			
		M. F.	M. F.		M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.		M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.						
Prematurity	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2		
Atelectasis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1		
Congenital Abnormality	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	1		
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1		
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	3		
Open Verdict	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
	2	2	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	5	6	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	8	9



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	3	3	12	4	—	1	26
Whooping Cough	1	2	3	2	7	16	4	—	3	38
Acute Polio- myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	2	—	2	1	1	1	—	1	8

	Under 5 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 & over	Total
Acute pneumonia	—	—	—	2	1	3
Dysentery ...	4	3	5	—	—	12
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	—	1	2
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	2	—	—	2
Food poisoning ...	—	—	2	—	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS

		NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
Age Periods		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2— 4	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	...	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
35—44	...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—74	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75—84	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		7	7	1	1	—	—	—	—
		14		2					

## **GENERAL HEALTH MATTERS**

There have been no maternal deaths since 1955, but there was one death in unusual circumstances in 1960. A domestic employee concealed her pregnancy successfully and had no medical attention. Subsequently the body of a newly born child was found in the house where she had been employed. It was not possible to establish whether the child had had a separate existence. As a result of the circumstances, the mother developed heart disease after puerperal sepsis and died a few months later.

### **Food Poisoning**

Only two cases of food poisoning were reported.

These were husband and wife who suffered from moderately severe diarrhoea and vomiting presumed due to eating infected cold roast pork. Salmonella was isolated from the stools of the patients but it did not prove possible to trace the source of infection.

### **Laundry Service**

The Council continued to provide a free laundry service to assist aged incontinent persons living in their own homes. This is not a costly service and has certainly not been abused. Arrangements are made with a local laundry to collect and deliver the soiled bedding etc. and the cost is met by the Council. Recommendations of persons whom the scheme would benefit are made by local practitioners, the Public Health Inspector then visits and the powers under the Public Health Act 1936 are used to secure cleansing. Total laundry costs were £29 9s. 0d. and 15 persons used the scheme throughout the year. In practice when a patient starts using this scheme, cleansing usually continues on a weekly basis until the patient dies or is removed to hospital.

### **National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50**

It was necessary to use these powers which enable the Council to arrange burial of a body when no arrangements are being made, on one occasion ; this was following the discovery of the decomposing body of a new born child in a suitcase at a house in Ashford.

### **Establishments for Massage and Special Treatment**

These establishments are required to be registered under the Middlesex County Council Acts. Six applications for the registration of premises were approved. For the most part the special treatment is chiropody and to a lesser extent massage.

## Water

Arrangements for the supply of water continue unchanged. Most of the area is supplied by the South West Suburban Water Co. which also supplies adjoining districts. The Company takes water direct from the River Thames at their water works in the adjoining district of Egham, Surrey ; there is no reservoir and the mains water is pumped direct to supply after rapid filtration and chlorination. The water continues to be satisfactory in quality and quantity and it is not necessary to impose restrictions on the supply of drinking water. The water has no plumbo-solvent action and it has not been necessary to take action in respect of any form of contamination.

The Water Company takes daily bacteriological samples of the treated water going into supply. Samples of the raw river water are taken once per month and additional raw water samples are taken whenever advisable. These samples are examined by an independent Laboratory and the reports are available to this Council. Additional samples are taken by the Water Company at intervals for specific purposes e.g. detection of Radio Activity.

The number of dwellings in the area is 14,430, 14,411 dwellings are supplied direct from mains, 17 riverside bungalows on the Surrey bank of the river have individual shallow subsoil water supplies. Only two houses have standpipe supply, and both these houses will be demolished during 1961. The seventeen riverside bungalows referred to are likely to have main water available by the end of 1961. Negotiations have been proceeding with the Water Company for an extension of mains through an adjoining Local Authority area and this Council is prepared to give a guarantee to the Water Company under the provisions of the Water Act 1945.

### Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Clear and Bright.

Colour	...	...	12	Turbidity	...	less than 1
pH	...	...	7.5	Odour	...	Nil
Electric Conductivity	...	...	540	Free Carbon Dioxide	...	11
Chlorine present				Total Solids	...	370
as Chloride	...	...	26	Alkalinty as		
				Calcium Carbonate	...	195
Hardness: Total	...	...	280	Carbonate 195, Non-carbonate	85	
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	4.5	Nitrite Nitrogen	...	absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	0.000	Oxygen Absorbed	...	1.5
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	0.040	Residual Chlorine	...	0.03
Metals—						

Iron: 0.12, Aluminium: less than 0.02, Zinc, Copper and Lead: absent



## Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies devel- oping on Agar Presumptive	1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 2 per ml.	3 days at 20°C. 4 per ml.
	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable number</i>
<i>Coliaerogenes</i> Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
<i>Bact. coli.</i> (Type 1) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
<i>Cl. welchii</i> Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

## Public Swimming Baths

The Council has provided in the Ashford ward of the district a modern open-air swimming pool of 160,000 gallons capacity ; this was constructed in 1935. This pool is filled at the beginning of the season with water from the mains and a modern water treatment plant is provided, using rapid pressure filtration with soda and alum treatment and continuous chlorination. The plant is capable of changing the water in the pool every four hours.

An open-air children's bathing pool and a children's paddling pool are provided in the Ashby Recreation ground in pleasant surroundings where the River Thames forms one boundary. Boths these pools are of the "fill and empty" type and give cause for concern as to the purity of the water. This bathing pool is filled with mains water, usually twice weekly in the summer months, there is no filtration but some chlorination treatment is given. The paddling pool is filled with mains water and is also chlorinated. In fine weather, so popular are these pools with children that they become badly overcrowded and the water becomes visibly polluted. Bacteriological samples are invariably unsatisfactory under these conditions, and I would again urge that these pools should be improved or perhaps replaced with larger pools provided with continuous filtration and chlorination plant.

There is a great need in this area for a modern large swimming pool. Such a pool if designed on modern lines and well laid out with lawns



for recreation and sun bathing could provide for the needs of all members of a family. Suitably constructed, it could be used throughout the year. There is a definite need for first class swimming and diving facilities to be available to intending champions in the Greater London area. Surely Staines with its well known riverside attractions could be a most suitable location for these amenities.

The Council has also provided a bathing station with undressing facilities on the river bank. The river is heavily polluted and in my opinion is not suitable for bathing. However, so habitual has the custom of bathing in the River Thames become in this area, that the advantages of having a station with life-saving facilities cannot be ignored.

### **Sewerage**

The Council has spent approximately £500,000 on new sewerage schemes in recent years and with the completion of the new sewers in the Poyle, Colnbrook and Stanwell Moor parts of the area, the district can now be said to be reasonably adequately sewered. Elsewhere in this report some details of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors in getting properties connected to these new sewers is reported. I would however draw attention to the need for a sewer to serve the new houses built within the last few years in Moor Lane, Staines. In this part of the district there is no sewer and the houses are drained to cesspools. There are I understand, some difficulties of gravitation, but I have no doubt the Engineer can overcome them. This particular area has a high water table, cesspools fill up rapidly and have to be emptied frequently with all the inconvenience and expense of cesspool emptying. I regard cesspools as a primitive and unsatisfactory form of drainage which should have no place in an Urban district such as this.

## REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

During 1960 apart from routine inspections the Public Health Inspectors were busily engaged on ensuring that properties in areas where new sewers had been laid were connected to the sewers and in dealing with the work involved in the first smoke control area. The information given in the following pages shows the work carried out during the year.

### Housing Act, 1957, Clearance of Unfit Houses

Action continued to be taken to deal with unfit houses within the programme approved by the Council. Following the completion of the first five year programme under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, a further survey of the area was made, and as a result the Council resolved to deal with a further 165 unfit houses during the years 1961 to 1965. Most of the areas dealt with were small, the largest being Percy Avenue Clearance Area which involved the clearance of a street of 28 houses. The total number of houses included in Demolition Orders and Clearance Orders during 1960 was 32.

### Housing Statistics

Number of dwelling houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts ... ..	1,651
Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied:—	
After informal action ... ..	93
After formal notice under	
(a) Public Health Acts—	
by owner ... ..	22
by local authority ... ..	2
(b) Housing Act, 1957, S.9 and 16—	
by owner ... ..	1
by local authority ... ..	2
Unfit houses closed or demolished during 1960	
Houses subject to Demolition Orders ... ..	12
Houses included in Clearance Areas ... ..	8
Unfit houses Closed (Sec. 16(4) Housing Act, 1957) ...	2

## Overcrowding

Two new cases of statutory overcrowding came to notice, and one case was abated. Proceedings were taken against the occupiers of one house occupied by three families and the Court imposed a small daily penalty. This is a house where persistent overcrowding occurs, and the Council did institute proceedings in 1959 when the Court imposed a fine.

### Rent Act, 1957, Certificates of Disrepair

Number of applications for certificates ...	...	...	...	18
Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	...	...	...	—
Number of decisions to issue certificates—				
(a) in respect of some, but not all defects ...	...	...	...	10
(b) in respect of all defects ...	...	...	...	8
Number of undertakings given by landlords ...	...	...	...	10
Number of undertakings refused by local authority ...	...	...	...	1
Number of certificates issued ...	...	...	...	9

### Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Decisions by local authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objections ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Certificates cancelled by local authority ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

One property owner appealed to the County Court against the Council's refusal to cancel a certificate where the only remaining item of disrepair was a dilapidated garden fence. There was considerable legal argument at the hearing as to whether the Council were entitled to refuse to cancel a certificate of disrepair when the remaining item of disrepair was a fence. The Court decided in favour of the Council and the owner erected a new fence.

### Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

This Act brought into force as from August 1960 a new licensing system for controlling location of caravan sites and improving conditions on the site. There are twenty-eight residential caravans permanently occupied in this area, plus twenty caravans occupied as winter quarters by members of the Showmen's Guild.

In addition to the residential caravans most of which are on two small attractive sites, there are six holiday caravans on a riverside site and the Council has provided a summer camping site for caravans and tents on a riverbank site at Laleham.

All the owners and occupiers of residential caravans were informed of the new requirements and advised to apply for site licences.



## Summary of Inspections

Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts ...	...	1,651
Improvement Grants ...	...	279
Rent Act 1957 ...	...	201
Overcrowding ...	...	12
Food Premises ...	...	668
Slaughterhouses ...	...	335
Pet Animals Act ...	...	6
Cesspools ...	...	190
Drainage Works ...	...	1,153
Drain Testing ...	...	271
Heating Appliances (Fireguard) Regulations, 1953 ...	...	4
Factories and Outworkers, Offices ...	...	63
Factories (Fire Escape) ...	...	11
Clean Air Act, 1956 ...	...	2,788
Rodent Control (inspections and survey) ...	...	4,229
Vermin ...	...	80
Keeping of Animals and Poultry ...	...	55
Water Supplies ...	...	16
Infectious Diseases ...	...	75
Offensive Trades ...	...	46
Caravans ...	...	478
Places of Public Entertainment ...	...	25
Shops Act ...	...	43
Hawkers ...	...	15
Public Conveniences ...	...	12
Schools ...	...	5
River Pollution ...	...	35
Refuse Deposits ...	...	249
Hairdressers ...	...	16
Laundry Service ...	...	227
Miscellaneous ...	...	340
		13,578



<i>Number of Notices Served:</i>					<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>
Housing Act 1957, Section 9	...	...			6	3
Housing Act 1957, Overcrowding	...	...			—	—
Public Health Act 1936	...	...	...		125	24
Food & Drugs Act 1955	...	...	...		20	—
Factories Act 1937	...	...	...		2	—
Pests Act 1949	...	...	...	...	2	—
Shops Act 1950	...	...	...	...	2	—
					<hr/> 157	<hr/> 27
					<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year 360 complaints were received from the public ; all were investigated and appropriate action taken.

### **Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958**

### **House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.**

#### **Improvement Grants**

Applications for improvement grants continue to be mainly from owner/occupiers of dwelling houses anxious to provide a hot water supply and bathroom. Because of the high cost of building in this area, the standard grant scheme does not often meet one half the cost of providing a bathroom with hot and cold water supply, wash basin and W.C. This applies particularly where a bathroom is being built on to a house, and the extra cost of brickwork and roofing has to be met. Owners of rented property still do not seem to be interested in improving their property with the aid of grants and the scheme will have to be more attractive financially.

47 Standard grants and 16 Discretionary grants were approved.

Applications were refused in respect of 9 houses ; 4 of these are to be dealt with as a Clearance Area.

#### **Drainage**

Following completion of the sewerage schemes for the Poyle, Colnbrook and Stanwell Moor areas, it was possible for the work of abolishing cesspools and connecting properties to the new sewers to be continued and this took up much of one Inspector's time.

Power to require connection to the sewer is contained in special powers under Section 40, Middlesex County Council Act, 1956, but these only apply where the Council's sewer is within one hundred feet of the building to be drained and where the land between the building and the sewer is land through which the owner is entitled

to drain. Much negotiation and discussion with owners was necessary, particularly where it was essential to secure agreement to combined drainage. It was desirable to drain groups of buildings, particularly dwellings, in combination because cast iron sewers are laid in this area and it is not the Council's practice to provide more connections to the sewer than is reasonably essential.

The result was 157 cesspools were abolished and the buildings connected to the new sewers and 1,153 inspections of drainage works were made. In addition, occupiers of factories in the Poyle Trading Estate arranged to lay sewers to connect with the Council's sewers, and cesspools at 34 industrial premises were abolished.

It is a pleasure to be able to record that these works have been completed since cesspool drainage almost invariably puts a burden on the housewife in that it restricts the use of water and this is a severe handicap when there is a family of small children. The factories referred to above are situated on wet land and with the quantities of water used nowadays very frequent cesspool emptying was required, an unpleasant duty, happily no longer required.

### **Clean Air Act, 1956**

The Council's first Smoke Control Order included 2,500 houses and covered an area of 1,824 acres. The Order came into force on December 1st 1960 and there was no opposition to the Order from the public ; in fact enquiries of householders during the survey of the area indicated that a majority was in favour of the idea of clean air. In an area such as this, it is apparent that many housewives can no longer tolerate the dirt and labour involved in using coal, and many had already turned to other forms of space heating.

All householders and house owners, as well as owners and occupiers of all other premises in the area, were notified immediately after the notice of confirmation of the Order was received and the Department was very busy indeed for some time afterwards dealing with enquiries and with applications for grants towards the conversion of grates. An assistant to help in this work was appointed on 1st September 1960.

The major cost of alteration to grates in this area lay in modernising the grates at an estate of 170 Council houses and in replacement of obsolete grates at a privately owned estate of 200 houses. Many of the grates at private houses that could have been replaced with grant aid were not replaced, in fact occupiers of slightly more than 50% of these houses continued to use whatever type of smokeless fuel they were already using and did not claim grant for the installation of an approved type solid fuel fire.

Some householders did not wish to use gas ignition for solid fuel fires and lighting with sticks and paper is permissible with an exemption for this specific purpose, but the majority of those who did make alterations to their grates were quick to avail themselves of the opportunity to have gas ignited fires.

During November 1960 the Council gave preliminary instructions for a survey of two further areas and it is probable that these will come into operation during 1962. Experience of this first Smoke Control Area shows that it is advisable to allow a considerable length of time for the conversion of grates before the Order comes into operation. This is because of the inability of the building trade and the Gas Board under present conditions of shortage of labour to carry out all the alterations required.

In my view the purposes of the Act would be well served if the Act was amended to allow grant to be paid to any householder who wished to replace obsolete grates with modern appliances with the aid of a grant of seven-tenths of the cost, rather much in the same way as an improvement grant is claimed for modernising a house. This would allow those who are anxious and willing to improve grates and burn smokeless fuels to do so without waiting for their area to be declared a Smoke Control Area ; it would also spread the work of altering grates over a longer period and enable the building trade to cope. Under present conditions it was found that the building trade would not submit estimates for these relatively small jobs and at times this caused difficulty and delay.

This area came into operation quite smoothly and without difficulty.



## Inspection and Supervision of Food

	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Bakehouses ... ..	6	23
Bakers and Confectioners Shops ... ..	19	41
Butchers Shops ... ..	37	101
Bacon Curer ... ..	1	39
Beer Bottler ... ..	1	1
Cannery and Winery ... ..	1	7
Clubs ... ..	13	9
Confectionery Manufacturers ... ..	1	3
Dairies ... ..	4	20
Fish Shops (wet and dried fish) ... ..	13	16
Grocers ... ..	90	127
Greengrocers ... ..	41	31
Licensed Premises ... ..	37	14
Off-Licences ... ..	9	2
Mineral Water Manufacturer ... ..	2	5
Restaurants, Cafés and Snack Bars ... ..	37	109
School Kitchens ... ..	14	25
Slaughterhouses ... ..	1	335
Sweets and Tobacco ... ..	45	27
Wholesale Warehouses ... ..	7	44
Works Canteens ... ..	16	9
Food Storage (Hawkers) ... ..	8	15
	<hr/> 403	<hr/> 1,003

Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

(a) Sale of Ice-cream ... ..	160
(b) Meat and Sausage Manufacturers ... ..	24
(c) Fish Friers and Curers ... ..	1
(d) Manufacturers of Preserves ... ..	1
(e) Cannery ... ..	1

### Milk

The number of Dairies and Milk Distributors registered is:—

Milk Distributors ... ..	27
Dairies ... ..	4

The following licences have been issued:—

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Dealers Licences</i>	<i>Supplementary Licences</i>
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	11	11
Pasteurised ... ..	15	11
Sterilised ... ..	16	10



## Middlesex County Council Act 1950, S.11

### *Registration of Hawkers*

	<i>Ice Cream</i>	<i>Fruit and Vegetables</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>
Registered during 1960 ...	—	—	—
Total registered at 31.12.60	11	12	2

### *Improvements effected at Food Premises*

	<i>No. of Premises</i>
Cleanliness improved ...	9
Structural repairs ...	10
Ventilation improved ...	1
Equipment improved, protective screens provided ...	34
Hot water supplies provided or improved ...	5

The following foods were surrendered in food premises as being unfit for human consumption.

1,392 cans various foods	408 lbs. beef
138 lbs. corned beef	7 lbs. chicken
941 lbs. bacon and ham	14lbs. cheese
157 lbs. offal various	21 lbs. pork
12 lbs. jellied veal	5 bottles cordial
10 stones fish	30 lbs. sheep's liver (tinned)
1,390 lbs. peach pulp	

### **Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959**

No ice-cream is made in the area and practically the whole of the ice-cream sold is the product of national firms. It is therefore unnecessary to take regular samples of ice-cream for bacteriological examination. Routine inspections of the places where ice-cream is sold were carried out. Generally it was found that ice-cream is stored and served hygienically but examination of ice-cream conservators showed that not infrequently storage temperatures were too high or that temperatures had been allowed to fluctuate. Once ice-cream has been heat treated during manufacture the storage temperature should not be allowed to rise above 28°F and the Regulations require that the ice-cream should not be sold without again being heat treated to pasteurising or sterilising temperatures as prescribed by the Regulations and then frozen and kept at 28° Fahrenheit.

## Legal Proceedings

The proprietor of a stall in the Market Square, Staines, and his assistant, were fined a total of £4 10s. for smoking while handling food in contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and the Food Byelaws.

A multiple store in Staines was fined £5 with £7. 6s. costs, for selling "Angel Cake" the cream of which had gone mouldy.

Proceedings were taken against a cafe on the Poyle Trading Estate for contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations and Food Byelaws. The prosecution resulted in fines totalling £100.

## Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

The following table shows the number of animals killed, the carcasses inspected and details of carcasses condemned. The total number of animals killed was 5,823, this is over 6,000 less than 1959.

### Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

		<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	...	548	15	261	2126	2873	—
Number inspected	... ..	548	15	261	2126	2873	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	1	1	1	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	57	5	—	5	47	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	... ..	10.4	40	0.38	0.28	1.7	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	2	—	—	—	11	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	... ..	0.55	—	—	—	0.38	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

Condemned meat and food is dealt with at a factory in the area where it is processed for industrial use.

Under Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act 1958 the Council was required to review and report to the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food on the slaughtering facilities available to the area. In 1955 five slaughterhouses were in operation but by 1960 only one continued to slaughter. The Council considered the district was adequately provided for by the existing facilities, and the Minister confirmed this view and made orders appointing 1st October 1960 as the date when certain of the principal hygiene and prevention of cruelty regulations for slaughterhouses came into force. Certain works and improvements were required at the existing slaughterhouse after October 1st 1960, the occupier had not carried any of these out by December 1st 1960 when his slaughterhouse licence was due for renewal and as a result his licence was not renewed. The occupier entered an appeal to the Magistrates Court and carried out all the specified works before the appeal was heard. The appeal was then withdrawn and the licence renewed.

### **Food and Drugs Act, 1955**

The Middlesex County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the whole of the County and the Chief Officer, Public Control Department, has provided the following report on duties under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, carried out in his Department.

*Milk.* Three samples of hot milk were procured from a restaurant in your district. The samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, who certified that they were deficient in butter fat and contained at least 15.6 per cent. of added water. Legal proceedings were instituted against the company owning the restaurant, and a fine of £2 2s. 0d. was imposed and an order for costs amounting to £3 10s. 0d. was made.

*Meat.* A sample of sausage-meat was found to contain 320 p.p.m. of preservative. Though a notice appeared in the shop drawing the attention of the public to the fact that preservative was used in sausage-meat sold on the premises, it was not considered to be positioned so to have effect with all the sausage-meat available for sale. A caution was issued to the butchers concerned.

*Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887-1953.* The majority of inspection work carried out under the provisions of these Acts relates to ensuring that the requirements of the various Marking Orders made under the provisions of the Act of 1926 are complied with. These Orders apply to the marking of the country of origin on imported foodstuffs, principally meat, apples, tomatoes, dried fruits, bacon, ham, poultry, butter and honey, upon sale and exposure for sale. The inspections



were made at 152 premises of 692 displays of these foodstuffs. All the infringements detected were of a minor nature, and were dealt with by verbal warnings.

*Labelling of Food Order, 1953.* This Order requires pre-packed food to be marked with the name and address or with the registered trademark of the packer or labeller. It also requires such food to be labelled with its common or usual name (if any), and in the case of a compounded food with the names of the ingredients in descending order of proportion of weight. It also controls the manner in which the presence of vitamins and minerals is disclosed, and prescribes specific labelling of certain foods. A total of 211 articles of pre-packed food was examined at 83 different premises to ascertain whether there was compliance with the above Order.

*False and Misleading Descriptions.* Food advertisements and labels have been scrutinised for false and mis-leading statements and descriptions. No serious infringements were disclosed. Corrective action taken within the whole area of the County has equal effect within the sub-districts, and work under this heading is combined with inspections made in connection with the Merchandise Marks Acts and the Labelling of Food Order. Corrective action was sought, for example, where oranges, tangerines and grapefruit were claimed to be seedless, but were found to contain seeds, where cream doughnuts and jam cream sponge were found to contain imitation cream, and where television and press advertisements falsely suggested that a cheese was a cream cheese.

*Special Designated Milks.* During the year 1960, 26 samples of designated milks were taken, all of which were certified to be satisfactory. One Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence was issued in respect of premises within your area where milk is processed. The premises were regularly inspected, and compliance with statutory requirements was well maintained. No infringements were reported during the year.

*Safe Milk.* In addition to the foregoing, 8 samples of raw milk were procured within your district and submitted to test for the presence of tubercle bacilli. None was found to be contaminated.

### **Shops Act, 1950**

Duties under this Act include hours of closing as well as the health and comfort provisions. It is seldom necessary to deal with hours of closing because of the earlier closing of nearly all shops, but there is a tendency on the part of the small general shop keeper to ignore



Sunday closing and half day closing. The mobile shop of which there is an increasing number is not within the Shops Act and can and does sell until quite late at night. 43 visits were made for the purposes of the Act.

### **Rodent Control**

Control of rat and mice infestations continues to be carried out in accordance with the methods recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. 445 notifications of rat or mice infestation were received ; the number of premises treated for rats was 549 and 86 were treated for mice infestation. The total number of visits and revisits including surveys for infestation was 4,229. In addition thirty-nine business premises were treated and a charge made for the services of the Council's Operator.

The Council does not make any charge for treating dwelling houses and for this reason occupiers are very ready to notify this department when they have infestations.

Destruction of rats and mice is a service very much appreciated by the public and the Assistant who does this work has, after many years, become so well known in the district that householders seek his services when they see him in the streets. He is in fact the modern Pied Piper!

The sewers are very lightly rat infested in this area because the system is mainly laid in cast iron and is of modern construction. For this reason frequent treatments are not necessary, but as no treatments had been carried out for several years and it was known that some branches in Staines had some evidence of rats, a treatment of all the sewers was made using sodium fluoracetate.

In addition to rodent control work it is the Council's policy to deal with wasps nests when they are causing a nuisance to residents, for example in a dwelling house. 114 nests were destroyed. No charge was made for this service.

# Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

## PART I OF THE ACT

### 1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	12	4	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	278	59	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	9	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	299	63	2	—

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	6	5	—	—	—

# PART VIII OF THE ACT

## Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111 )

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc.	11	—	—	—	—	—